

HEART MOUNTAIN SENTINEL

Vol. IV, No. 31

Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Saturday, July 28, 1945

2 Cents Within City 5 cents Elsewhere

Center Prepares for Closing Date

Sentinel Publishes Last Issue

Wyoming's Most Militant, Youngest Paper 'Folds' So Staff Can Relocate

With this issue, The Heart Mountain Sentinel writes "30" to its existence as Wyoming's youngest and most militant newspaper to prepare the way for the resettlement of its own staff.

Began Oct. 26, 1942, The Sentinel was published continuously until the present week, building up its circulation to 6,000 weekly. Postal authorities report that 4,500 Sentinels are mailed to readers on the outside after they have first been read in the center.

The Japanese section of The Sentinel also suspends publication, its chiefs, Toshio Ota and Toshio Kimura, having already relocated. The work of translating current news, WRA policies and other information, which in the future will be printed in mimeograph form, falls to Gosaku Yokota, who is now in charge of the Japanese section of The Sentinel.

Always a leader in the relocation movement, The Sentinel has sent almost five complete staffs — almost 120 workers — to every part of the nation where they have taken their places in the American scene as editorial-advertising and print-shop workers, students, research workers, government employees and almost every other field of endeavor.

The Sentinel's service flag includes 18 stars including three gold stars, representing former staff members serving their country. The three gold stars are for Pfc. Ted Fujoka, first student body president of Heart Mountain high school; Lt. Hitoshi "Moe" Yonemura, former head cheer leader and honor student of UCLA, and Silver Star winner, Pfc. Fred Yamamoto, poet and first Heart Mountain volunteer.

During its 34 months of life, only one original member of the staff remained until the last edition. Haruo Imura, veteran editor and former San Francisco newspaperman, resigns today as editor of The Sentinel.

Imura planned to resign in June but remained with The Sentinel out of loyalty until the end.

Imura took over from Bill Hosokawa, original editor of The Sentinel. Hosokawa was largely responsible for the liberal and progressive attitude of the newspaper and maintained controlling influence for more than a year. Hosokawa, one of the nation's leading nisei writers, is now a member of the editorial staff of the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Former Sentinel editors include, besides Hosokawa and

Myer Says

(Following is a telegram from National Director Dillon S. Myer on the suspension of The Heart Mountain Sentinel. —Ed. Note)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "I would like to express my appreciation of the services The Sentinel has rendered as a medium of news.

"To the members of The Sentinel trust and to the present and past members of the staff, I also want to say you have handled a difficult job and done it well.

"While doubtless the residents of Heart Mountain will be sorry to say farewell to The Sentinel, I am sure they will realize that its suspension is just another step in the liquidation of the center. Another step which is not only logical but necessary.

"The Sentinel has an enviable reputation both at home and abroad. Each week copies are read by thousands of persons on the outside. Copies have been mailed to our fighting nisei overseas and their comrades in arms complimented The Sentinel. It has not only been a unique newspaper but one of high journalistic standard."

—Dillon S. Myer.

Robertson Says

PROJECT DIRECTOR
GUY ROBERTSON:

"I predict The Sentinel will be remembered as one of the outstanding achievements at Heart Mountain long after things that now seem important have been forgotten. The Sentinel staff as a unit has concentrated on the welfare of its patrons and with admirable courage and foresight carried their banner for understanding and justice for all the world to see.

"The Sentinel has been accepted as one of the strongest links in the chain of public relations between the evacuees and the general public, having built a strong contact with thousands of persons throughout the nation.

"I want to congratulate the staff, past and present, on this fine achievement. It is with genuine sorrow that we see The Sentinel discontinued but with satisfaction we acknowledge the outstanding work that has been accomplished."



PFC. FRED YAMAMOTO

Pfc. Yamamoto Awarded Medal For Gallantry

At a simple and impressive ceremony at the USO Thursday night, Mrs. Yumji Sato, 24-C-18, was presented the Silver Star medal, third highest military award, posthumously awarded her son, Pfc. Fred Yamamoto, for gallantry in action.

Private Yamamoto was killed in action near Biffontaine, France, Oct. 28.

Only close members of the family, members of the USO parents' organization and appointed personnel attended the

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D.M. Todd Now Gila Director

Douglas M. Todd, former assistant project director in charge of operations here has been promoted to project director of Gila relocation center, Rivers, Ariz., according to an announcement by National Director Dillon S. Myer.

Todd served as an assistant project director from July 1 until this week when he took charge of the Arizona project.

Gila's new project director succeeds Leroy H. Bennett, who resigned to resume his private business in California. Todd was one of the original staff at Heart Mountain and served first as superintendent of community enterprises and later was promoted to assistant project director.

Todd was a popular speaker here and was held in high regard by both the residents and the administration.

Enterprises to Dissolve Trust for Liquidation; Many Functions Affected

With only 15 more weeks ahead before the final closing of Heart Mountain, all center activities except relocation and welfare this week were preparing to clean house as a prelude to leaving the barbed wire fences and guard towers of this three-year old wartime city.

Survey Will Start Aug. 1 On Relocation

Because of the difficulty in securing railroad transportation, Dillon S. Myer, national director of WRA, has asked all relocation officers to obtain from every center resident a decision as to where and when each family intends to relocate, Joe Carroll, relocation program officer, announced Friday.

Necessary information must be secured not later than Sept. 1, Carroll said, and a survey will be undertaken on Aug. 1 to determine this figure.

The primary reason for the need of this information is for the arranging of transportation through the Office of Defense Transportation and to enable each relocation officer to be in a position to handle the evacuees as they enter their area.

Under an agreement with the Office of Defense Transportation it is necessary that railroads know 10 days in advance of departure date, the type and amount of equipment needed for the movements, the number of people involved and the destination.

The relocation officers will also need the information since they will have to plan a program for assistance in securing of housing, jobs and business opportunities.

In the survey beginning Wednesday, an interviewer will call on each family at their apartment and ask six questions:

(1) Has the family completed relocation plans? The answer will be yes or no. (2) What will be the location? (3) Approximate date of departure? (4) Has the family contacted either the relocation division or the welfare section? The answer will be yes or no. If so when contacted? (5) How many members of the family are still in the center? (6) Any remarks?

There will be no actual relocation planning done in the home, Carroll said, nor will there be any attempt made to ask any other questions or to give answers to questions the residents may ask.

The reason for this, he said, is that the planning should be done at either the relocation or welfare offices, depending on the case. Another reason is that the planning cannot be done in the short period of time in which the interviewing is being held.

After compilation of the in-

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Biggest news this week was the announced dissolution in September of Community Enterprises, Heart Mountain's business organization which manages for the residents the three major stores of the center and a variety of minor activities including the shoe repair shop, barber and beauty shops, radio repair and dry cleaning agency.

With the winding up of Community Enterprises business, the Community Activities section, including all recreational programs, the theaters and related functions will soon be out of existence since the latter group is supported by funds of Community Enterprises. Funds now being used by Community Activities will of necessity be returned to the CE trust for liquidation and refunding to the residents.

In nearly every section and division, work is being reduced and employees are being laid off. By Tuesday, 11 mess halls will have been closed and others will follow suit as soon as block populations drop to 150. While the 28 remaining mess halls are operating with smaller staffs, block residents will be expected to assist more with the necessary work.

This week also saw the final issue of The Heart Mountain Sentinel which has served the community since Oct. 24, 1942.

Already the community library has been closed and the nursery school will be terminated Aug. 31, according to project officials.

The agricultural section, which has been responsible for supplying the center with most of its fresh vegetables, poultry and pork for the last two years, no longer exists as such. The last of the poultry and hogs were slaughtered last week. With the termination of agricultural work, hundreds of residents have been able to make plans for resettlement.

Another large crew which is rapidly being terminated are construction and maintenance workers. For some time there has been no construction work scheduled and the only efforts now being made are for necessary and emergency maintenance.

For some time medical and dental care has been at a minimum and in the near future only emergency treatment will be available at the center hospital. Two physicians and one dentist plan to return to the West coast in the immediate future, thus leaving only a skeleton staff at the hospital.

Able-bodied men who are

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